

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION - INTERNAL USE ONLY

SSA-DO/MS REC'D 7/17/97  
7-17-97

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OGC HAS REVIEWED.

OGC 77-1996

29 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: SSA/DDA

Attn: [REDACTED]

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FROM: [REDACTED]

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Office of General Counsel

SUBJECT: Proposed DDA Dispatch Cable re Agency Payment  
of Private Debts of Overseas Employees

1. You have requested our opinion on the propriety of using appropriated funds to pay (either temporarily or permanently) the personal debts of overseas personnel which are discovered subsequent to their relocation. It is understood that this opinion is requested because on several occasions the Agency and its cover entities have been presented with claims from foreign nationals concerning debts of Agency employees who have transferred back to the United States or laterally to another foreign country. It is also understood that these claims invariably arise as a result of a contractual arrangement between the employee and a landlord for the rent of a residence, or a contract with a local government authority for utilities, and the arrangement is such that the vendor normally feels that he has a right to look to the embassy for satisfaction of the debt. These claims normally are not indicative of any reluctance on the part of the employee to pay his just obligations, but only that billing procedures overseas are such that the employee may not receive a final bill prior to his departure. Inasmuch as there is a valid concern for the prestige of the U.S. Government, as well as the concern that a subsequent occupant of the same premises may be evicted or lose utility service because the former occupant did not have an opportunity to settle the account, the DDA has requested your assistance in examining this question, looking to the preparation of a book dispatch designed to standardize Agency practice in this area.

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